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LLANFYLLIN
MUNICIPAL BOROUGH



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

YEAR 1959

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To the Llanfyllin Municipal Borough Council,
The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

It gives me pleasure to submit the Annual Report for the year 1959, which has been drawn up in accordance with the instructions of the Welsh Board of Health.

I commenced duties as your Medical Officer only in May, 1960, and I am, therefore, chiefly dependant on others for the source of the information which appears in this report.

Consequently, I am certain that you will not expect me to comment, at length, on the circumstances as they existed in 1959.

I wish to refer, briefly, to the vesting of the local water undertaking in the newly-formed Montgomeryshire Water Board. This has been accomplished as the result of a direction by the Minister of Health, and, as such, it is to be hoped that it will ultimately benefit the Borough.

The population remains apparently stationary, but as the number of deaths in 1959 was 23, and the number of births was 15, the natural decrease in the population stands at eight. There was a decrease in the birth rate and an increase in the death rate. In discussing the death rate, we must take into account the fact that we have in the Borough a Home for Old People.

The infant mortality rate was high, and was caused by the death of only one infant aged 10 months. To obtain a true perspective, other years would have to be included, and in many previous years there were no such deaths. In addition, there occurred the death of a child aged 10 years. It is notable that both these deaths occurred from epilepsy, and in neither instance were they preventable. Both occurred in hospital.

It is gratifying that there were no perinatal deaths, as compared with 1957.

Malignant Neoplasms accounted for the majority of deaths, but there were no deaths from cancer of the lung.

There were no stillbirths and no maternal deaths.

A small outbreak of whooping cough occurred during the first two quarters of 1959, and there were no deaths.

The Mass Radiography Unit continued its service during 1959. Dissatisfaction was expressed, prior to the time of going to Press, that this service was inadequately extended to Llanfyllin and the surrounding areas. At the time of going to Press, this deficiency has been repaired, and the response to this service in 1961 has been satisfactory.

The section of this report dealing with the Sanitary circumstances of the area has been appropriately dealt with by the Public Health Inspector, to whom my thanks are due.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

ELINOR M. GREVILLE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Llanfyllin Borough Council at 31st March, 1959.

The Mayor : Alderman Miss E. A. MARTIN, B.A.

Deputy Mayor : Alderman D. JONES.

Alderman E. REES DAVIES

Alderman J. HOWELLS

Councillors : D. Ll. EVANS

J. E. EVANS

J. JONES

P. A. JONES

I. H. LEWIS

REES LLOYD

A. F. MANN

J. M. OWEN

E. I. REES

R. D. ROBERTS

A. W. WATKINS

I. M. WATKINS

Officers of the Council :

Town Clerk : T. E. A. Jarvis (Solicitor).

Medical Officer : I. B. Millar, M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.
(left 15th Nov., 1959).

Borough Surveyor and Public Health Inspector :
Ll. O. Evans, Cert. S.I.B., Cert. R.S.I. (Meats and Other Foods)

Borough Treasurer : R. A. Birch, A.I.M.T.A., A.C.W.A.

Borough Collecting Officer : Mrs. M. A. Davies.

SECTION "A"

General Statistics.

Area of District—8,143 acres.

Registrar General's mid-year estimate of resident

population—1,300

Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books—394.

Rateable Value at 31st March, 1959—£11,088.

Sum of Penny Rate—£42.19.11d.

Vital Statistics.

The following are the principal vital statistics for 1959, with the comparable figures for 1958, wherever available.

	1959	1958
Estimated Population	1,300	1,300
Comparability Factor		
(a) Births	1.17	
(b) Deaths	0.82	
	1959	1958
Births (total live and still)	15	16
Live	15	16
Still	Nil	Nil
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population	11.54	12.31
Adjusted Birth Rate	13.50	
England & Wales Birth Rate (provisional)	16.5	11.7
Montgomeryshire Birth Rate (adjusted)	17.0	
Illegitimacy Birth Rate	Nil	
Deaths (all causes)	23	18
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	16.5	13.84
Adjusted Death Rate	13.24	
England and Wales Death Rate	11.6	11.7
Montgomeryshire Death Rate (adjusted)	12.0	
Infant Deaths		
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	67.0	
Montgomeryshire I.M.R.	17.17	25.0
England and Wales I.M.R.	22.0	22.6
Male Infantile Mortality Rate	67	Nil
Female Infantile Mortality Rate	Nil	Nil

Perinatal Mortality

(Stillbirth and First Week Deaths)		
(Total Live and Stillbirths)	Nil	Nil
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total births	Nil	Nil

Neo-natal Mortality

(Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age)	Nil	Nil
Maternal Mortality	Nil	Nil

1959 Births

		Sex and Legitimacy		
		Males	Females	Total
Live :				
Legitimate	5	10	15
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total Live Births		5	10	15

Still : There were no stillbirths.

1959 Deaths

Males	Females	Total
14	9	23

There was only one Infant death (Male, aged 10 months).

Deaths according to Age, Sex and Cause Distribution during 1959.

The following table shows the Deaths, according to age, sex and cause distribution.

		0-1	10-20	60-70	70-80	80-90	90-100	Total	
Cause	Sex							M	F
Malignant Neoplasm	M			1	1			2	
Stomach	F								
Other Malignant	M				2			2	
and Lymphatic	F			1					1
Neoplasms									
Vascular Lesions of	M					1		1	
Nervous System	F			1		1			2
Coronary Disease,	M				1	1			
Angina	F							2	
Other Heart Diseases	M				3			3	
	F						1		1
Leukaemia	M								
Aleukaemia	F				1				1
Other Diseases of	M			1				1	
Respiratory	F								
System									
Other Defined and	M	1	1	1		3		6	
Ill-defined Diseases	F			1					1
Totals									
	M	1	1	3	7	5		17	
	F			3	1	1	1		6
Grand Totals		1	1	6	8	6	1		23

Malignant Neoplasms :

Deaths from this cause occurred in the 60-80 years age group and the sites in which the disease occurred were as follows:—

Stomach 2, Ovaries 1, Skin 1, Tongue 1.

Total 5.

SECTION “B”

National Health Service Act, 1948.

Public Health provisions administered by the County Council (see County Medical Officer's Annual Report).

SECTION “C”

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supplies.

(i) Quality.

To report upon the quality of the water supplies in this district it is necessary to distinguish between public supplies and supplies drawn from private sources.

The public supply is drawn from a well sunk in valley gravel. Samples of the supply are submitted to bacteriological examination each month and the results of such examinations have been consistently good since the source was brought into use in 1945. During the year under review 15 samples of the supply were bacteriologically examined. Twelve were excellent, one was satisfactory, one was suspicious and one unsatisfactory. Two chemical samples were examined and found to be satisfactory.

The private supplies are mostly from shallow wells or springs and detailed information regarding their quality is not available.

During the year under review, five samples of privately owned water supplies were submitted to bacteriological examination. Two were excellent, one was satisfactory and two were unsatisfactory.

(ii) Quantity.

To report upon the adequacy of the water supplies in the Borough it is again necessary to deal separately with those properties which are within reach of the public mains and those which have to rely on private supplies.

The public supply is adequate for all purposes. The dwellings and population supplied from the mains are as follows:—

	No. of Dwellings	Estimated Population
Water laid on to house or curtilage	330	1,104

Dealing generally with the properties beyond the reach of the water main there can be no doubt that during periods of drought the supplies are inadequate. The elevation of some properties makes it difficult to supply them economically but I consider that the water mains should be extended wherever possible so as to make the maximum use of an adequate source.

(iii) Plumbo-Solvent Action.

The public water supply is treated for the correction of pH value and I would not expect the water to have a marked aggressive action on metals.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Following the construction of new sewerage works for the town the position regarding drainage and sewerage is satisfactory within the built-up area of the district.

Closet Accommodation.

The construction of the new sewerage scheme made it possible to convert most of the pail closets in the town. At the end of the year there were no pail closets in use in the built-up area of the district.

Public Cleansing.

Throughout the year under review arrangements were in force for the weekly collection of house refuse from the built-up area of the district. The service was confined to the contents of bins and the refuse was disposed of on a tip situated outside the Borough. The capacity of the tip is limited and a new disposal site will soon be required.

Public Health Inspections.

During the year the Public Health Inspector carried out the following inspections:—

Public Health	3
Food and Drugs	4
Housing Inspections	7
Drainage	5
Building Inspections	1
Meat Inspections	166
Refuse Disposal	3

As a result of the above inspections the following notices were served with the result indicated:—

	No. Served	No. Complied with
Public Health Act, 1936	4	3

Shops and Offices.

No action was necessary during the year.

Camping Sites.

There are no licensed camping sites in the district.

Smoke Abatement.

No action necessary during the year.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no swimming baths or pools in the area.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No action was necessary during the year.

SECTION "D"

Factories Act, 1937-1959.

No action was necessary during the year.

Outworkers.

There are no outworkers in the district and therefore no statistics relating to Part VIII of the Act of 1937 are included in this report.

SECTION "E"

The following information is required to be included in this report:—

(1) There were in the district at the end of 1959 the following numbers of premises where food is prepared, sold or stored:—

Bakehouses	0
Butcher's Shops	2
Fried Fish and Chip Shops ...	1
General Provisions Shops	3
Greengrocer's Shops	1
Cafes	2
Confectioner's Shops	3
Licensed Premises	5

(2) Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 requires the registration of all premises used for the manufacture or sale of ice cream or the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale. The following numbers of premises are so registered:—

For the sale of ice cream	5
For the manufacture of ice cream	1

(3) Educational activity in relation to food hygiene was confined to advice and discussion.

(4) One slaughterhouse was in operation in the district throughout the year and the following table shows meat inspected and condemned.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	112	—	—	926	148
Number Inspected	112	—	—	926	148
All Diseases except					
Tuberculosis and Cisticercosis					
Whole Carcases Condemned	—	—	—	5	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	49	—	—	32	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cisticercosis	43.75	—	—	3.99	3.3
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis	—	—	—	—	2.0
Cisticercosis.					
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	1	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

Meat Inspected and found to be unfit for Human Consumption.

5 sheep carcasses and offal	221 lbs.
1 side sheep	17
22 bovine livers	384
25 parts bovine liver	161
3 bovine heads	70
32 sheep livers	52
4 pigs heads	63
2 pig lungs	5
1 pig liver	3
1 pig heart	2

Total 978 lbs.

SECTION "F"

Infectious Disease Control.

There were 32 notifications of infectious disease. They were distributed as follows:—

	Male	Female	Total
* Tuberculosis			
Pulmonary	1	1	2
Non-Pulmonary	1	—	1
Pneumonia	1	4	5
Dysentery	1	1	2
Erysipelas	—	1	1
Whooping Cough	12	9	21
Total M. and F.	16	16	32

* 2 notifications referred to Pulmonary Tuberculosis and to Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Pneumonia cases were of the Influenza type, and Dysentery of the sonne type.

A small outbreak of Whooping Cough occurred in the first two quarters of the year, involving 21 children between the ages of 0-10 years. There were no deaths. The cases are tabulated below:—

Whooping Cough Notifications

Age Group	Totals Quarter		1st Quarter		2nd Quarter	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
0- 1 years	1	—	—	—	1	—
2- 3 years	1	3	1	1	—	2
4- 5 years	1	—	1	—	—	—
5- 6 years	4	2	4	2	—	—
6- 7 years	4	—	3	—	1	—
7- 8 years	—	4	—	4	—	—
9-10 years	1	—	—	1	—	—
Totals	12	9	9	8	2	2

Grand Total M. and F. 21.

It will be noted that the majority of cases occurred in the 1st quarter of 1959, and the males predominated over the females. The 5-6 age group were mostly affected.

Tuberculosis.

No deaths from tuberculosis occurred in 1959.

Twenty-four new cases were notified in the county, being two less than in 1958. There was a decrease in the notifications of non-pulmonary tuberculosis as compared with 1958, and a decline in the death rate of tuberculosis in the county as a whole, of two per 100,000 population for males, and one per 100,000 population for females.

Mass Radiography.

The Mass Radiography Unit, based in Welshpool, continued its service in the north of the county during 1959. The results are appended below. The figures include, but do not relate specifically, to cases drawn from the Borough.

ANALYSIS SHOWING TYPE OF EXAMINEE.

Type of Examinee	Welshpool and other Districts
General population Volunteers	263
General Practitioner Referrals	43
Civil Servants and Local Government Offices	56
Schoolchildren	18
School Staff	22
Students	1
Hospital Staff	7
TOTAL	410

Of the 410 cases examined 15 were found to have abnormalities and 10 of these were investigated further.

DETAILS OF ABNORMALITIES FOUND

ABNORMALITY	Number of Cases
Confirmed Pulmonary Tuberculosis 'New Cases'	2
Healed Primary Tuberculosis	2
Healed Post Primary Tuberculosis	2
Bony Abnormalities	2
Bacterial Virus and other Lung Infections	2
Pleural Thickening or Calcification	1
Abnormalities of Diaphraem	1
TOTAL ABNORMAL	12
Negative after Investigation at Clinic	3

This is an important service. The exposure of unsuspected cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis ensures the institution of early treatment and prevents the spread of infection in the Community.

It is to be hoped that the service will be extended eventually to those outlying areas where travelling facilities are difficult.

B.C.G. Vaccination.

The Vaccination programme continues, 133 pupils at Llanfyllin High School were tested; 102 were found to require Vaccination, and all accepted.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

Children over 6 months of age and young persons up to 26 years of age were offered vaccination. In addition, third injections were offered. The response from young persons over 15 years of age, who were not attending school, was poor.

